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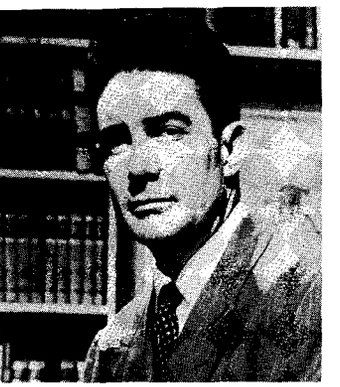

DAN SMOOT

STATE OF THE UNION: CRITICAL

Commenting on President Johnson's 1966 State of the Union Message is like wrestling with an octopus—or worse. An octopus is believable; but the President's message is not—which reminds me of a White Russian who came to Dallas to see me several years ago. He walked into my office and said: "I have made a long trip to see a man who is as big a fool as I once was."

He got my attention with that remark, and held it with a story.

He called himself Peter Jones, an alias to conceal his true identity. He lived in a crowded neighborhood in a crowded metropolis on the eastern seaboard of the United States, a perfect place to hide. But he could not hide his memories.

In September, 1917, some two months before the bolsheviks seized power in Russia, Peter was graduated from what he called the old Russian equivalent of the U. S. Naval Academy and was commissioned an officer in the Tsar's navy. His first command was a submarine, which he was to take on a training cruise through the Arctic Ocean in the spring and summer of 1918.

Peter knew those were troubled times for Mother Russia. Armies of the Tsar had mutinied on the German front, and bloody revolution was in the making. But Peter was young, imbued with the ideals of his profession, ignorant and scornful of what he called politics. Mother Russia had always been in trouble, and had always survived. His concern was his own career — to do well on his first command.

He assumed that command on schedule, in the spring of 1918; but profound and baffling changes had already occurred. He put out to sea under a flag new and strange to him. The Tsar, Little Father of All the Russians, was under house arrest; and a violent group of men known as bolsheviks held the reins of power. Strangest of all, to Peter, was the presence aboard his ship of a political commissar, one Vassily Petrovich, a former university professor, who had

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never had naval or military training. Peter was in technical command of his ship, but Vassily was in command of Peter.

Vassily was zealous about the dogmas of the revolution; yet, he seemed a kindly man, especially toward Peter, whom he regarded as a mere boy.

Peter wanted to know why he was given titular command of a ship which, in fact, Vassily commanded. Vassily tried to explain. The revolution did not have enough trained professionals to run the military establishment and the industries of Russia. Until it could produce its own technicians, the revolution must use those who belonged to the old order; but while using them, it must carefully watch and control them, to guarantee against counter-revolutionary activity.

It was a long, lonely training cruise. All boat's communications were handled by two men, each of whom stood 12-hour watches every day, taking orders directly from the political commissar, having no contact with the young commander. Following mysterious, peremptory orders of Vassily, Peter anchored his vessel about the middle of June, 1918, at a place called Franz Joseph Land. For a month he stayed there, granting no shore leave to his crew, himself forbidden to leave the ship. Only Vassily went ashore.

The tedium was broken in the middle of a stormy July night when Vassily returned to the ship, full of haste and excitement, and routed Peter out of his berth, ordering him to weigh anchor immediately and head back to his home port. Sometime during the voyage, Vassily told Peter the Tsar was dead—liquidated with his family, on the night of July 16.

The submarine put into port in the late afternoon, on July 25, 1918. For a long time, Vassily stood silently at Peter's side, gazing at familiar landmarks. He broke the silence with an order: "You will cancel all plans for shore leave, Peter. No one but me leaves the ship tonight."

"Why?"

"You will know tomorrow. When I return in the morning, many things will be made clear to you."

At noon, July 26, 1918, Vassily returned and ordered Peter to take his entire crew ashore, at once. When they reached the wharf, they were met by soldiers armed with submachine guns and escorted to an empty warehouse, where they stood for two hours, under heavy guard. Vassily had disappeared.

About 2:00 p.m., a beefy, red-faced civilian bustled into the warehouse and barked an order. The submarine crew was formed in a column of fours and marched through the streets of the town, flanked on both sides by soldiers. The streets were deserted, save for a few small clusters of people who stood in doorways, staring with looks of dumb terror in their eyes.

On the outskirts, they came to an open field, in the center of which was a compound enclosed in barbed wire. Inside the compound was a rather large crowd of civilians — people of all ages, from babes in arms to very old men and women. Vassily was sitting in a lorry, near the entrance. He summoned Peter to him, before the sailors were marched inside the enclosure. There was a rush of affectionate and tearful greetings as the sailors mingled with the civilians. Vassily gave a sign. An officer gave an order. Machine guns chattered, and the people inside the compound fell in grotesque heaps.

Vassily drove away, Peter sitting at his side, numb with horror. Finally, he managed to say, "Why?"

Vassily explained: "There was disaffection aboard your ship. We do not know how extensive or exactly who was involved. The revolution must liquidate its enemies, but does not have time for investigations."

"But the others?" Peter asked.

"Relatives," Vassily said. "This way, no one is left behind to spread seeds of disloyalty. You are so blinded by bourgeois sentimentality you cannot understand that to do what must be done to serve

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the revolution is kindness, not cruelty. The death of a few today will teach thousands what they must learn to avoid death."

"And what is that?"

"That there is only one loyalty: loyalty to the revolution."

"What about me?" Peter asked.

"I am tainted with some of your sentimentality," Vassily replied. "At first, I thought I could teach you, mold you into a useful instrument for the revolution. By the time I realized that you are quite incapable of understanding communism, I had grown to like you. You must leave Russia — at once, or it will be too late."

"If you wanted to spare me, why did you not spare me the horror I have seen?"

"Peter, I confessed to some small taint of sentimentality; but I am not a sentimentalist. In all I do, I serve the revolution. I served it today, in having you witness the revolution at work. You will go to the West now, and for the rest of your life you will serve the cause of communism."

"I am not the craven coward you think me," Peter said hotly. "I will tell what I have seen to let the world know what beasts you are."

"You will tell what you have seen," Vassily replied calmly, "but who will believe you? Today, you witnessed something more than simple execution. You saw a demonstration of a profoundly important tactic of the revolution: *do the incredible, and the bourgeois mentality will not give it credence.* If you had gone to the West telling tales of arrests in the night and drumhead trials, people might have believed you. No one will believe you now. The more you tell your story, the more you will discredit yourself. The more you discredit yourself, the more you will serve the cause of communism. Where we hold political power, we can simply liquidate the anti-communists. Elsewhere, we must make them ineffective by stigmatizing them as hysterical, lying fools. You will help us in that work, by telling a horror story that no one will believe."

Peter went to the West—first to England, then to the United States. He wrote articles for magazines and newspapers, but all were rejected: too lurid, too exaggerated. He made speeches and talked to individuals, but few believed him.

"I became," he said, "that crazy Russian, a typical anti-communist, babbling dishonest nonsense because I would not accept the 20th century."

"Would you change your tactics, if you had it to do over again?" I asked.

Rather vehemently, he said:

"No! The communist technique of *doing* the incredible does tend to discredit anti-communists who *tell* the incredible, but that is only part of the harm it does. Many educated people in the United States—who ought to be among the foremost in telling the truth about communism — actually tell lies about it or, at least, evade the truth. They are so afraid of being labeled witch-hunters and ignorant red-baiters that they discuss communism as if it were a respectable political philosophy with which they just happen to disagree. Such 'criticisms' of communism give it respectability in the eyes of all who do not know the truth. The truth is that communism is not a political philosophy at all, but a bestial criminal conspiracy to achieve an international socialist dictatorship. There must be people in every generation who will do the unpleasant job of telling the harsh truth."

"You told it and few listened," I remarked.

"Eventually," he replied, "we old-time anti-communists convinced the general American public that communism is a monstrous evil, even though we will always be remembered, if remembered at all, as fools. So, I did what I set out to do. Present-day anti-communists have a more difficult task: they must direct their *heaviest* fire, not at card-carrying communists, but at some of the most prominent and popular people in the land."

"Why is that?" I asked him.

"Because the role of the communist party in the United States has changed radically."

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"The communist party," I reminded him, "is still a transmission belt for the international communist line. It still operates fronts that do great damage. It still recruits and indoctrinates new members, and seems to be making significant headway in universities, church organizations, and unions."

"Yes," he acknowledged, "but these are secondary things, important to the party as morale-builders for the party faithful. The primary role of American communists now is to serve as decoys —to draw the fire of public criticism, while others do the real work of advancing the socialist revolution."

"Who are the *others?*" I asked him.

"The heirarchy of liberalism!" he said impatiently. "They, and not communists, are the ones actually accomplishing the socialist revolution in the United States."

"Do you consider liberals traitors to this country?" I asked him.

"No, no!" he said. "Very few of them realize they are promoting the communist cause."

"Then, you consider them fools," I suggested.

"No — people can be fooled, without being fools. American liberals who promote communism without realizing it fall generally into one of three groups.

"*One*: there are those who have been so saturated with liberal-socialist propaganda that they do not know what communism is. This can happen to intelligent, educated people—it's a case of over-exposure to propaganda, little or no exposure to truth.

"*Two*: there are those who are blinded by desire for power and a place in history. They want to remake the country and everything in it so they will go down in history as men of vision and accomplishment. They become obsessed with change and reform, unable to understand that some principles of government, economics, education, social organization, and spiritual faith are eternal and unchangeable — cannot be bent without being broken; cannot be broken without opening a pandora's box of social evils.

"And *three*: there are the career politicians, incapable of thinking except in terms of party politics, who identify the interests of their party with the interests of the country. They fight for any program that seems to promote party interest at the moment."

"In what *specific ways* do America's liberals promote communist causes?" I demanded.

He replied:

"The communists *want to destroy* the lawful government of the United States. The non-communist political leaders *are destroying* lawful government, by violating the Constitution, the only basis for lawful government.

"The communists *want* a socialist America. The non-communist political leaders *are creating* a socialist America.

"The communists *want to confiscate* American wealth, which capitalism has created, and scatter it abroad, to serve the two-fold purpose of paying for socialism in other nations, and of achieving worldwide economic leveling. The non-communist political leaders of the nation *are confiscating* American wealth and paying for socialism all over the world.

"The ultimate communist objective is a world-wide socialist system, in which the United States will be a mere unit, controlled by a world dictatorship. America's non-communist political leaders are moving toward that communist goal, unwittingly perhaps, but at a dizzy pace.

"That is the incredible truth which the present generation of anti-communists must tell the American people.

"The non-communist Americans who are advancing the communist revolution may not realize what they are doing; but, wittingly or not, they use the communist tactic that Vassily Petrovich explained to me many years ago: *Do the incredible*

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and the bourgeois mentality will not give it credence."

As I listened to President Johnson's State of the Union Message on the night of January 12, 1966, and as I later studied the text,[1] I could almost see before me the tired face of the man who called himself Peter Jones.

Is it credible that the President of the United States could make such a speech, and receive resounding applause from the Congress? Hardly! But it happened.

Contemplate some aspects of the state of our union.

The United States is in a war that the President does not plan to win, but to which he has committed the lives of our soldiers and the material resources of our nation, without limit. The President has set for us the negative, ill-defined objective of staying in the Vietnam war "until aggression has stopped." Yet, he will not permit our fighting men to take action which might stop some of the aggression. For example, in North Vietnam there are two large airfields where the communist enemy is building up a big force of jets for use against our men. Asked why the fields have never been bombed, a high U. S. military official said: "We'd like nothing better than to hit them, but so far they are not on Washington's approved list of targets."[2]

President Johnson said we have arrived at our present condition in world affairs via "five continuing lines of policy that America has followed under its last four Presidents." The first continuing line of policy, the President said, is *strength.* By this, he meant the national economy is strong enough to support whatever defense expenditures the President requests. He said that in the next fiscal year (ending June 30, 1967), we "will need expenditures of $58.3 billion . . . to maintain this necessary defense might." The "second principle of policy," President Johnson said, is "the effort to control, to reduce, and to ultimately eliminate the modern engines of destruction." Thus, the first and second principles of policy — the "continuing lines of policy that America has followed under its last four Presidents"—directly conflict. The first principle is to spend taxpayers' money to *arm* the nation for defense. The second principle is to *disarm*—"to reduce, and to ultimately eliminate" the defensive might that has been bought at crushing cost.

The "third major principle of our foreign policy," according to President Johnson, "is to help build those associations of nations which reflect the opportunities and the necessities of the modern world." He said:

"We will take new steps this year to help strengthen the Alliance for Progress, the unity of Europe, the community of the Atlantic, the regional organizations of developing continents, and that supreme association, the United Nations."[1]

Alliance for Progress is a new name which President Kennedy gave to our old program of aid to Latin American nations.[3] Between 1946 and 1962, we gave Latin American nations (not including Cuba) aid totaling 9 billion, 578 million, 400 thousand dollars.[4] No reliable figures are available on what we have given them since we expanded the program and started calling it *Alliance for Progress*, but 2 billion dollars a year is the general estimate. Allegedly, Alliance for Progress is intended to save Latin America from communism. Actually, it is using American taxpayers' money to force upon Latin American countries a communist-socialist revolution.[3] Communism is now more firmly entrenched, and growing faster, in Latin America than ever before; and hatred of the United States grows as communist influence spreads. Our President pledged more of our money to speed this Latin American operation.

Community of the Atlantic no doubt means NATO — North Atlantic Treaty Organization — on which we have spent many billions of dollars since 1949, ostensibly to make it the "free world shield" against communism, building the whole European defensive structure on France as the keystone. But France, the keystone, never made any

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appreciable contribution to NATO. De Gaulle has withdrawn France from any meaningful participation in the NATO defense system, and has adopted an open policy of hostility toward the United States.

As for that "supreme association, the United Nations": From 1946 to 1962, U. S. contributions to the United Nations and related international organizations totaled 18 billion, 101 million, 561 thousand dollars.[4] This amount is less than 2 billion dollars short of what the Defense Department estimates as the cost of developing and deploying an anti-ballistic-missile system to protect the United States against annihilation by enemy missiles carrying nuclear warheads—a system we do not now have, and are not trying to build, one of the stated reasons being that it would cost too much.[5] Far from providing the United States any protection against enemy attack, or benefiting us in any way, the United Nations, controlled by our enemies, is a threat to the security and economic stability of the United States. It was largely the United Nations that caused our government to adopt a no-win policy in Korea, rejecting victory for stalemate on communist terms. A majority of UN nations vehemently oppose our operations in Vietnam. Most of the equipment which the communist enemy is using against us in Vietnam is supplied by members of the United Nations. These same UN members have received American foreign aid totaling billions of dollars, and are still getting our aid, while helping our enemy.

President Johnson said:

"A fourth enduring strand of [American foreign] policy has been to help improve the life of man."[1]

He meant our general foreign aid program. U. S. aid to all nations and world organizations from July 1, 1946, through June 1, 1963, totaled 148 billion, 456 million, 333 thousand dollars. That sum (which does not include the multi-billion-dollar tax cost of the Food for Peace Program) is 46.7 billion dollars *more* than the total assessed valuation of *all* property (including land) in the 50 largest cities of the United States.[4]

Our foreign aid (which goes not only to neutralist and so-called friendly nations, but also to communist countries) has brought us to the edge of economic ruin, saddling us and our children with a debt exceeding the combined indebtedness of all other nations on earth. It has depleted our monetary gold reserve to the point where we are at the mercy of nations which have received our bounty. It has built foreign industries which now undersell our own, while American industries are taxed to subsidize their foreign competitors.

All over the world, nations take our economic aid, not to develop free-enterprise economies compatible with American constitutional principles, but to finance socialist systems patterned after the Soviet system. All over the world, foreign governments accept our military aid, not to help defend the world against communism, but to support their own political regimes and to strengthen themselves against their neighbors, who are also accepting our military aid. Our military aid to foreign nations stimulates an armaments race among those nations, with us paying the costs on all sides, and being resented on all sides.

American foreign aid has, in short, become the most gigantic blackmail operation in the history of civilization. By threatening to embrace communism, foreign nations blackmail our government into continuing the plunder of Americans for the benefit of foreign interests. Our reward for trying to feed and defend the world has been the world's contempt for our "materialism" and "dollar diplomacy," coupled with general resentment because we do not give more.[4]

President Johnson, however, pledged to expand American foreign aid. He demanded an International Education Act of 1966, requiring American taxpayers to do more than ever before to help educate the world; an International Health Act of 1966, requiring American taxpayers to do more than ever before toward eliminating disease in the world; an international agricultural program,

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requiring American taxpayers to do more than ever before toward feeding the world. While demanding these programs which (if they accomplish anything) will *accelerate* the growth of world population, President Johnson pledged to spend American taxpayers' money on foreign birth control programs to *decelerate* the growth of world population.[1]

"The fifth and most important principle of our foreign policy," President Johnson said, "is support of national independence, the right of each people to govern themselves and to shape their own institutions." Yet the President urges destruction of the independence of Rhodesia.

The President pledged to continue his domestic war on poverty, the most corrupt and arrogant political swindle against the whole American people that has ever been perpetrated.

Apart from demanding a constitutional amendment that would do great damage to our constitutional system, President Johnson mentioned the Constitution only once in his 1966 state of the union speech. He said:

"It is the genius of our Constitution that under its shelter of enduring institutions and rooted principles there is ample room for the rich fertility of American political invention."[1]

That is a direct contradiction of fact. The Constitution is a binding contract of government, carefully designed to *prevent* political invention.

The public seems generally indifferent to the President's 1966 state of the union message; and that is the most discouraging commentary of all on the state of our union. It is not a question of whether the people have lost their wholesome sense of righteous indignation. Obviously, they have lost it. The question is *why*? Peter Jones may have been right. Perhaps our political leaders, by doing the incredible, have placed their acts beyond the credence of the public.

Or, perhaps, the ancient Greeks had a word for it.

Remember the mythological tale of Perseus and Medusa, written by Appolodorus in the second century before the birth of Christ?

Medusa was a Gorgon, one of three sister monsters:

"And they are three, the Gorgons, each with wings

And snaky hair, most horrible to mortals,

Whom no man shall behold and draw again the breath of life."

Perseus, a handsome young mortal, vowed to slay Medusa and bring her head as a gift to King Polydectes. The vow pleased Polydectes, because he hated Perseus and believed that Perseus could not attempt to slay Medusa without being de-

WHO IS DAN SMOOT?

Born in Missouri, reared in Texas, Dan Smoot went to SMU getting BA and MA degrees, 1938 and 1940. In 1941, he joined the faculty at Harvard as a Teaching Fellow, doing graduate work for a doctorate in American civilization. From 1942 to 1951, he was an FBI agent: three and a half years on communist investigations; two years on FBI headquarters staff; almost four years on general FBI cases in various places. He resigned from the FBI and, from 1951 to 1955, was commentator on national radio and television programs, giving *both* sides of controversial issues. In July, 1955, he started his present profit-supported, free-enterprise business: publishing *The Dan Smoot Report*, a weekly magazine available by subscription; and producing a weekly news-analysis radio and television broadcast, available for sponsorship by reputable business firms, as an advertising vehicle. The *Report* and broadcast give *one* side of important issues: the side that presents documented truth using the American Constitution as a yardstick. If you think Smoot's materials are effective against socialism and communism, you can help immensely — help get subscribers for the *Report*, commercial sponsors for the broadcast.

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stroyed by looking upon her horrible countenance.

But Hermes (god of science and invention) and Athena (goddess of wisdom) gave Perseus aid. Hermes equipped him with a sword that would not bend or break. Athena gave him her shield of polished bronze, and cautioned him:

"Look into this when you attack the Gorgon. You will be able to see her in it as in a mirror and so avoid her deadly power."

Anon, Perseus found the hidden island lair of the Gorgons. With one sweep of the sword, he beheaded Medusa, never glancing at her: his eyes were fixed on the shining shield which mirrored her monstrous image.

The myth of Perseus and Medusa had rich meaning for the ancient Greeks. It expressed a profound truth about human beings: they cannot be exposed to evil without being harmed, eventually destroyed. First exposure revolts them. More exposure brings indifference. Prolonged exposure brings active acceptance—and the hapless mortal is a participating part of the evil which at first repulsed him.

Have the American people been so long and so gradually exposed to the corrupting of constitutional principles that they are no longer outraged — no longer care? The outraged remnant that does care must redouble its efforts. It must awaken the moral conscience of the people. It must inform the apathetic and stir them to political action—political action "to turn the rascals out" before they devastate the land.

FOOTNOTES

(1) Text of the State of the Union Message to Congress, *Congressional Record*, January 12, 1966, pp. 129-33 (daily)

(2) "Washington Whispers," *U.S. News & World Report*, January 24, 1966, p. 24

(3) For details on the Alliance for Progress, see the following *Reports*, "Alliance For Progress — Part I," "Alliance For Progress — Part II," February 18 and 25, 1963. Reprint prices at bottom of Page 49

(4) Information together with comprehensive figures on foreign aid between 1946 and 1962 are contained in the *Report* "Foreign Aid Is Killing America," October 21, 1963.

(5) For background information and current U. S. policies and actions on disarmament, see the *Reports* "Disarmament Story — Part I," and "Disarmament Story — Part II," January 24 and 31, 1966.

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